

Third Presidential Silver Wedding Anniversary Taft's Now to Follow That of Grant and Hayes

Coincidents Binding Tafts' and Hayeses—Both Celebrate Cincinnati Nuptials—President and Mrs. Taft's Fathers Both Guests at Hayes Celebration. Courtship of Taft Began in Current Topics Club—Long Engagement—Decided to Build His Own Home Before Taking a Wife—The Wedding Week a Gay One in Cincinnati—The Bride-Elect a Bridesmaid for Her Friend—What She Got in the Wedding Cake and What It Augured—Details of the Wedding—Honeymoon Spent Abroad.

BY JOHN ELPRETH WATKINS.
Washington, D. C., June 7.—For the second time in our latter-day history, the silver anniversary of a Cincinnati wedding is to be observed by a President of the United States and his honored consort. New Year eve, 1877, President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes, with a memorable levee held at the White House, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding, held in Cincinnati the last day of the year 1852, and the 19th of June, 1911, President and Mrs. Taft, in the manner already set forth in the news columns of the papers, will observe the passing of an even quarter century, since the time of their nuptials, solemnized in Cincinnati, in 1856.

A coincidence of blood as well as of scene attaches itself to these two presidential wedding anniversaries. At that of the Hayeses, the only invited guests outside of the President's official family, were persons closely associated with his and his wife's early life, and by virtue of this process of selection one of the chief guests of honor was John Williamson Herron, ex-State senator, former district attorney, one of the few witnesses of the Hayes wedding before the war and also the law partner of President Hayes. A third of a century later this same John W. Herron gave the hand of his daughter, Helen, unto William Howard Taft. In the course of the nuptials whose silver anniversary is now about to fall, another name upon the list of guests taken to the Hayes silver wedding was that of Alphonso Taft, the father of our present executive.

Courtship of the Tafts.
Soon after the graduation of William H. Taft from Yale and while he was both studying law and doing court reporting for Murat Halstead's Cincinnati paper, at \$6 per week, he helped organize a literary society, the "Salon," which met each Saturday evening at the Herron residence, 63 Pike Street. This small coterie of young men and women—most of them



MRS. TAFT.
(Taken about the time of her marriage.)

REV. MOSES A. HOGE, D. D.
(Who married President and Mrs. Taft.)

WILLIAM H. TAFT.
(Taken about time of wedding.)

just out of college—for two years wrote essays and discussed current topics. Miss Helen L. Herron, known among her intimate friends as "Nellie," had lately finished her education at Cincinnati University and was about this period improving her time by teaching a few terms at a private school. She was not only intellectual, but musical—an accomplished pianist, who was later to organize the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and for a long time serve as its president.

Fathers Taft and Herron approved of their children's literary club, for these old friends and neighbors were themselves members of the Cincinnati Literary Club, organized by Almsworth R. Spofford and several others, and of which the elder Taft became president in the course of his career. His son William was also initiated into this exclusive club of his elders, while still an active member of the union society, which met those happy Saturdays in Miss Nellie Herron's parlor.

It is said that William, following these meetings, systematically "sat out" all of the other young literary enthusiasts of his sex who chose to be regarded as the meetings had adjourned, and that during this time he asked Miss Nellie the fatal question, which was later to make her the first

lady out of college. The engagement was a long one. The young law student did not regard himself as worthy of a wife until he had built his own home in which to enshrine the girl of his choice, so congenial to him in intellect.

Must Build His House First.
Before his wedding date was set he finished an apprenticeship as clerk in his father's law office, and served successively as assistant prosecuting attorney, collector of internal revenue and assistant county solicitor. By this time, in the spring of 1886, he saw his long-anticipated home, the "Quarry," rise to crown a pretty bit of highland on East Walnut Hills, whence could be enjoyed, as a paper said at the time, "one of the finest views of the Ohio (River) to be obtained about the city."

His fiancée, elected to become a June bride, and Saturday, the 19th of that month, was chosen as the day of days. William H. Taft was then twenty-eight years and nine months old, while Miss Herron was but a few weeks past her twenty-fifth birthday.

Nuptial Prophecy Oddly Fulfilled.
A prophet employed upon one of the Cincinnati papers that month cast this horoscope for the bride and groom elect:

"W. H. Taft is a man who has made his mark already in legal and political circles. Those wise in such matters predict for him a brilliant future. To no position, political or social, to which American citizens may properly aspire would the grace, culture and refinement of his bonnie bride be found inadequate."

Of the wedding week, in their Sunday summaries, society editors make eloquent comment, especially the following:

"The past week has been an exceedingly gay one and society has been kept wide awake and moving. Wedding bells have rung out on the summer air—rich with the perfumed flowers—and many a merry maiden has made her choice 'for better or for worse,' and with music's crash and diamonds' flash have entered into the holy state of matrimony."

Two social functions of that week immediately preceding her nuptials, Miss Nellie Herron was a conspicuous participant. One of these was a brilliant dance at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Howard Taft, on Price Street, and the other was the wedding of her friend, Miss Agnes Davis, whom she accompanied to the altar of Christ Church as bridesmaid a few days before she was to play the stellar role in the same time-honored drama.

At her friend's wedding Miss Herron's bridesmaid gown was of white embroidered mull, with a white moire sash, and it is also related that she wore a straw hat and carried a bouquet of "Cornelia Cocks."

This wedding, at which Miss Helen Herron was a bridesmaid, was celebrated "after the early English style," and after the knot had been tied the bride and groom hurried from Christ Church to the Davis residence, there to sit down to the elaborate wedding breakfast served at a damask-covered, vine-decked table made in the shape of a good luck horseshoe.

What Was Found in Wedding Cake.
To Helen Herron's horseshoe another chapter—but a false one—was added during this sumptuous repast. Into a great cake set down before the bridal party had been baked a gold ring, whose finder would be the next bride; a gold dollar, auguring riches, and a gold thimble, predicting a perpetual spinsterhood. The bride-elect of William Howard Taft drew the slice of cake containing the thimble, and then repudiated the prophecy upon the following Saturday.

A Quiet Wedding.
Although the wedding was mentioned in the social columns, it was a quiet wedding, and the same policy of withholding the list of guests which the couple were to adopt for White House hospitality was observed. No wedding presents were described, not even the inevitable "gift of the groom," nor was the public taken into the family's confidence in regard to items of menu and trousseau. As one chronicler put it, the bride was "the most demurest of demure young ladies, the most demurest of demure young ladies."

As a favorite of the Hayeses family, she had participated in White House hospitality in Washington, as had the bridegroom, whose father was—as is well known—had served in Grant's Cabinet as Secretary of War and Attorney-General, before he had gone abroad, as our minister, to reside at the courts of the Emperor of Austria and the Czar of Russia.

The Herron residence was "very prettily decorated with plants and flowers," and a quarter before 5 o'clock was the hour set for the ceremony, which was witnessed by only members of the Herron and Taft families and a few intimate friends.

The Wedding Gown.
The bride was attired in a superbly fashioned satin robe with embroidered front and veil caught with sprays of white lilacs. And Cincinnatians were the next morning further told that "a banquet of white sweetpeas and lilies of the valley rested lightly in her gloved hands."

For his best man the future President chose his younger brother, Horace Dutton Taft, then a young bachelor of twenty-four, who had been admitted to the bar only the year before, but who was the next year to become tutor at Yale and later, four years and principal of the boys' school in Watertown, Conn., of which he is still the head.

"All in White."
And one of the bridesmaids was the youngest of the Taft children, Miss Fanny Louise, a young lady of twenty-one, who soon afterward was to marry Dr. William A. Edwards, of Los Angeles, with whom she visited the White House only a few weeks ago. She and the bride's sister, Miss Maria Herron, the other bridesmaid, too, still unmarried, now lives with her aged father in Cincinnati, were "all in white, one carrying pink sweetpeas and mornet roses, the other Marchal Niel roses and daisies."

Good Dr. Hoge, having kissed the bride and given the young couple his blessing, "the handsome home with its burden of floral decorations was the

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moon days there was much augury. Cor the Tafts, as to how their married life was to be spent. Although as devoted a "family man" as ever lived in our land, his various duties were to call him to circumnavigate the globe and visit nearly all climes and all peoples. But wherever he has gone, whether Vladivostok or Porto Rico, Panama or Rome, Manila or St. Petersburg, his devoted wife has shared the pleasures of travel.

Those of the Tafts and Hayeses are not the only silver anniversaries falling to Presidents and their consorts. President and Mrs. Grant celebrated theirs, informally, at their cottage in Long Branch, August 22, 1874. For the dual reason that the general had but recently lost his father and that Mrs. Grant's father was critically ill, no cards were issued, and those friends who paid their respects called "sans ceremony."

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Blacksburg Social News
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Blacksburg, Va., June 10.—Although a number of visitors, particularly the parents and friends of members of the graduating class, will not arrive until Monday, the town is already filled up with people from all parts of Virginia and some from other States, here for the V. V. I. Banquet, which began with the junior-senior german last night. Every available room in the hotel and boarding-house has been engaged for weeks, and in most of the private homes there are guests. During the past week there have been several informal entertainments that have included among the guests young women from out-of-town, those of the community and students of the institution.

Monday evening Mrs. Francis D. Wilson entertained the guests of honor, being the young people in Mrs. Wirt Dunlap's music class; Tuesday evening Prof. and Mrs. J. S. A. Johnson gave a supper party at their new home on "Faculty Row" for the senior class in mechanical engineering; Wednesday evening Prof. and Mrs. R. J. Davidson entertained in honor of their daughter, Miss Minnie Davidson and her guest, Miss Wilson, of Columbia, S. C., and Thursday evening Mrs. R. H. Hudnall was hostess at a very pleasant affair in honor of her daughter and house guest, Miss Florrie Peters, of Lynchburg.

Among the Blacksburg young people returning this week from school and college have been Misses Minna Mathews and Rosa Parrott from Farmville, Bessie Hall from Petersburg, Nell Walker from Roanoke, Beulah Evans from Buena Vista, J. Hampton Hoge from Randolph-Macon, and Bruce Tuttle from Roanoke College.

Mrs. M. K. Silverwood returned to her home in Richmond Tuesday after spending some time here with Mrs. William Lybarger. Mrs. W. D. Saunders and children, and Miss Mary Montgomery, of Franklin, are guests of Prof. and Mrs. J. E. Williams. Prof. and Mrs. Louis O'Shaunessy, of the University of Pennsylvania, are guests of Rev. and Mrs. F. D. Surface for the summer.

Miss Rosebud Hobson has returned to her home at Paducah, Ky., after a visit of several months here in the home of Prof. T. P. Campbell. Prof. S. B. Pritchard and family left Thursday to spend two months with relatives in Greenville, S. C. Mrs. George W. Walker has gone for a stay of several months with her son, J. E. Walker, in Pittsburgh.

Miss Bessie Nassau, of New York, arrived here to-day to be the guest of Colonel and Mrs. J. A. Johnson. Mrs. L. R. Taylor and Miss Helen Taylor, of Stowater, Minn., with Miss Helen Dixon, of Cleveland, Minn., are at the Blacksburg Inn for some time.

PILES CURED AT HOME BY NEW ABSORPTION METHOD

If you suffer from bleeding, itching, hind or protruding Piles, send me your address, and I will tell you how to cure yourself at home by the new absorption treatment, and will also send some of this home treatment, free for trial, with references from your own locality if requested. Immediate relief and permanent cure assured. Send no money, but tell others of this offer. Write today to Mrs. M. Summers, Box P. Notre Dame, Ind.

Shirtwaists made of elegant quality lingerie, silk m e s s alines, black taffeta silk; formerly \$3.00; Monday, 98c.

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NOTICE.
None of these goods sent C. O. D., none altered, and no mail orders filled.

This Is The Most Sensational Sale Ever Before Attempted By This Or Any Other Store In The City Of Richmond, One Day Only, Monday, June 12.

Never in the history of this city has such a sale like this one ever taken place before. It will seem almost impossible for you to believe that such high-class merchandise as ours can be sold at such startling low prices. Read our prices below for this great one-day sale.

DRESSES

Sheer Figured Lawns, in a beautiful range of patterns; formerly sold at \$2.25; Monday at **\$1.29**

Women and Misses' Dresses

Embroidered Lingerie; colors are white, blue and pink. These are Handsome Dresses, and were formerly sold at \$6.00; Monday for Monday **\$1.98**

Women and Misses' Linen Dresses

There are 50 different styles in this lot, and all colors; very pretty models; former price \$6.00; Monday **\$1.98**

Manufacturer's Sample Line of Pure Irish Linen Dresses

You must see these Dresses to appreciate their value; former price \$8.00; Monday they are **\$2.98**

Women and Misses' Cloth Suits

These Suits were taken from our regular stock, and never sold for less than \$25.00. Just think! You can buy these Beautiful Suits **\$6.75** Monday at



Silk Foulard Dresses

These Dresses were sold up to \$25.00. For Monday they are **\$4.98** One to a customer.

Linen Suits

There are but 55 Suits in this lot, and mostly odd sizes. Formerly sold at \$6.00. If you can be fitted, Monday at **\$1.98**

Real Irish Linen Suits

Made of an elegant quality linen and a strictly tailored model. Not made to sell for less than \$10.00; on sale for Monday **\$3.98**

Handsome Voile Skirts

Made of the famous Altman voile; beautifully trimmed and graceful hanging; Skirts formerly sold at \$12.00; Monday **\$5.98**

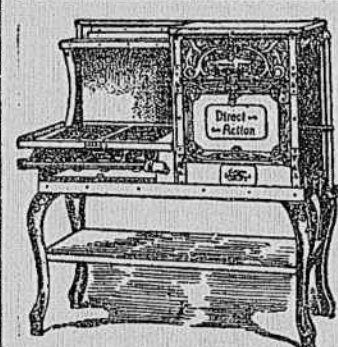
NOTICE

It will pay you to travel for miles to attend this Great One-Day Sale that we have arranged for **MONDAY**. Sale starts at 8:30 o'clock sharp, June the 12th.

Begin the Summer WITH YOUR Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet

Have this helper ready to give you "time off" from the steamy, baking kitchen as the hot weather sets in. Here in one spot forty inches wide you have at your finger tips nine-tenths of the articles you use to prepare a meal. You can sit down at your HOOSIER CABINET and do your work in half the usual time. Come in and see it.

A 2-Quart Ice Cream Freezer, 69c

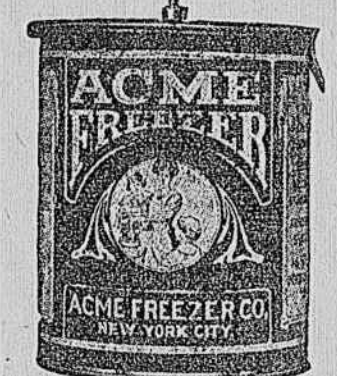


"Direct Action" Gas Ranges

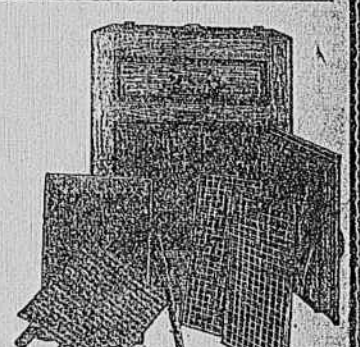
Are the greatest gas-savers on earth. The construction of the "Direct Action" is different from every other Gas Range. For eleven years we have recommended, sold and guaranteed the "Direct Action" to be the most economical and cheapest Gas Range ever made, and we sell more Gas Ranges than any other store in Richmond.

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The "Acme" Freezer fills a long felt want. Just the right size, too. It freezes and makes the same quality of ice cream as one costing ten times more and with less ice. On sale one day only. **SPECIAL PRICE MONDAY 69c**



"North Star" Refrigerators

Are perfectly sanitary, easily cleaned and odorless. Seven different walls to keep the cold in and the heat out. The walls being packed with granulated cork, the best non-conductor known, insures perfect refrigeration and the smallest ice bills. We have a size and price to suit everybody.

3-Burner New Perfection Oil Stoves, \$10.00

THE BIG STORE RYAN-SMITH & CO.
HOME OUTFITTERS
MASONIC TEMPLE

Porch Furniture, Chairs, 49c; Rockers, 59c; Benches, 79c